



Frank H. Murkowski, Governor

Edgar Blatchford
Commissioner
PO Box 110800
Juneau, Alaska 99811-0800

NEWS RELEASE

Tina Dickinson
Communications Specialist
907-269-4568
Fax: 907-269-8125
Tina_dickinson@commerce.state.ak.us
www.commerce.state.ak.us

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: January 7, 2005

No. 04-040

Anchorage Man Convicted on Insurance Fraud

(Anchorage) - On January 4th, Nelson Bishop pled No Contest before Judge John R. Lohff, in Anchorage District Court for violation of fraudulent insurance acts, in which he filed a false insurance claim. In a plea bargain with the District Attorney's office, Mr. Bishop received a 12 month suspended sentence and 40 hours of community service to be completed within six months.

On June 6, 2004, Bishop reported that his motorcycle fell off a trailer he was towing on the Old Glenn Highway near Butte, Alaska. Yet, on June 9, 2004 State Farm Insurance Company received information that Bishop wrecked his motorcycle at the Tanacross track near Tok, Alaska while preparing for a race. When Bishop was contacted by the State Farm Insurance Company and later by the Division of Insurance, he admitted to filing a false claim. No indemnity payments were made by State Farm Insurance Company.

"Lawful consumers are the ones that end up paying the price for those who commit fraud and get away with it," said Linda Hall, Director of the State Division of Insurance. "It is important that we let these crooks know we mean business and no act of fraud is acceptable."

In compliance with AS 21.36.390, an insurer or insurance licensee that has reason to believe that a fraudulent claim has been made, is required to provide the information to Alaska's Division of Insurance.

The statute also provides protection to the insurer or licensee, its employee or agent, or another person acting in good faith, relieving them of liability for damages resulting from the filing of the report or the furnishing of information. Based upon the report from the insurance company, the Division of Insurance's Investigation Section conducts a thorough investigation and forwards the report to the Department of Law for consideration of prosecution.

For more information about this case contact Investigator Schuyler Cox at 269-7918, or for questions regarding insurance fraud, contact Investigator Rick Jones at 269-7917.

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